

Variation in Collection of Income Tax from Beedi leaves Contractors

4831. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of collection of tax at source from beedi-leaves contractors under Sec. 44 AC of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 varies from State to State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Sir, the Central Board of Direct Taxes had clarified in January, 1989, that the traders of tendu leaves, who sell the leaves after the operation of drying and sprinkling of water etc. on these leaves would not fall within the ambit of sections 44 AC and 206C of the Income-tax Act. However, it appears that the clarification has not come to the notice of the concerned persons in some states.

Bank Loans for opening LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

4832. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of loans given by public Sector Banks in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh separately for opening of LPG agencies and petrol pumps during 1989, 1990 and 1991 so far, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH). The public sector oil companies in consultation with Government are operating

a scheme for awarding dealership/distributorship under social objective scheme, covering the establishment of petrol pumps and dealership in LPG. Financial assistance is given by banks to the allottees of various categories of dealership/distributorship awarded by the oil companies. However, the data collecting system in the Reserve Bank of India does not generate the specific information as asked for about the loans given by banks, State-wise.

Construction of Expressways in Bombay

4833. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for construction of Expressways over the sea connecting southern Bombay with northern suburbs;

(b) if so, the total cost involved; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Over Invoicing of Exports

4834. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases regarding claiming of duty drawback of fake firms by over-invoicing of exports and exporting mud and scrap have been detected as reported in the Economic Times of October 31, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during 1990 and 1991 so far;

(c) the action taken against the persons involved therein;

(d) the number of customs officials found involved in these cases and the action taken against them; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As reported in the Economic Times of October 31, 1991, 2 cases have been booked by the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence in 1990 in which fake firms claimed drawback by heavily over-invoicing the value of cotton blouses exported. In 1991, 2 more cases were booked by the same agency against fictitious firms who claimed drawback on exports without actually effecting any exports.

(c) and (d). Persons found involved are liable for penalty in departmental adjudication and prosecution in courts of law. Two cases have been adjudicated and personal penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs imposed on two persons. In two other cases, investigations are still in progress. One person has been arrested.

The Customs Officers found involved will be liable for disciplinary action. The cases are at present under investigation.

(e) The Customs formations have been alerted about this modus operandi and have been directed to ensure proper examination of export cargo.

Setting up of Naval base at Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu

4835. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Naval base in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Export of Beer and other Alcoholic drinks

4836. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for beer and other alcoholic drinks in Arabian and East European countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to explore the possibility of exporting beer and other alcoholic drinks to the above countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Beer and alcoholic drinks are already being exported from India to West Asian and East European countries. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) promotes exports of these items through participation in international trade fairs, development of product literature/audio visual material brand